Neva-Mind

Northern Nevada Mensa, Volume 35, Issue 9, September 2011



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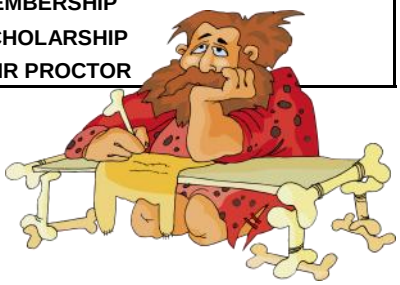
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Volunteers Needed:
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RECRUITMENT
MEMBERSHIP
SCHOLARSHIP
UNR PROCTOR



"Education is a vaccine for violence."

- Edward James Olmos

A Note From the Editor

by Anna Wright



"What's in it for you?" That was my inspiration from the American Mensa website for the word cloud of this month's cover. And, that's a good question. What brings us to Mensa? What keeps us in Mensa? For me, it's the wonderful new people I've met, the interesting new things I've learned from guest speakers at meetings and gatherings, and the chance to bring some of that experience to you through this publication.

I have found that Mensans are exciting folk with varied experiences and diverse expertise. Please send your thoughts, your writing, poetry, humor, artwork, photography, ... you name it! You might be surprised how many of members will also find your interests to be the same as theirs. Editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

This month is also the traditional "Back to School" month and so we dedicate this issue to the love of reading, writing, and literacy. ■

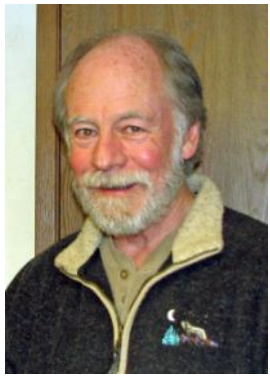
Notes from Your ExComm August 12, 2011

- Present were Bob McAllister, LocSec; Annemarie McTaggart, 1st Vice-Secretary; Gerald Lockhart, 2nd Vice-Secretary; Anna Wright, *Neva-Mind* Editor; and Ken Wright, RG chair.
- Volunteers needed: it is time to set up a nominating committee for our annual officer elections. Anyone who wishes to serve is urged to contact any ExComm member by September 30.
- The committee voted to begin a trial period wherein each testing proctor will be allotted two paid-test scholarships per year to award on a needs basis. Bob will research the by-laws to see if anything further needs to be done.
- The committee also voted to purchase a full version of Dreamweaver for the new Webmaster, if the current student-level version proves insufficient.
- Ken Wright updated the committee on the status of the upcoming RG (October) and AG (July 2012.)
- Committee adjourned

From the LocSec

by Bob McAllister

I Wasn't Persistent Enough



For some years, I've tried to bring attention to an aspect that seemed to be relevant to Mendeleev's percipient observation of nature's arrangement of our elements.

Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev was born in Siberia in 1834. That Siberia is considered remote even still makes you wonder how unforgiving it might have been in the nineteenth century. And yet, that remoteness notwithstanding, when he was 34 (around 1868), he noticed something that ultimately became the framework for modern chemical and physical theory. He noticed something that was waiting to be noticed.

Helium, Neon, Argon, Krypton and Xenon are the noble gases. Those elements have four electrons in their outer "package" and consequently do not interact (for the most part) with any other element because they neither attract nor repel other elements can be arranged in a sensible column.

It appears that there are categories wherein elements could be predictably arranged with one another. Different elements seem to have similar properties; for example, copper, silver and gold are in the same "category."

Mendeleev thought to arrange elements not just by their sequential weight, but both by weight and by category. Elements that were metallic, gaseous, inert, and so on had a shared set of characteristics that could be represented by given columns of commonality. Using this perspective in the middle of the nineteenth century led to discoveries of previously unknown elements because certain characteristics at a certain weight could be predicted.

One element that didn't appear where predicted, if I remember correctly, is Technetium. It's so named because it is the only element that exists now by means of artifact — a manmade creation. Its relatively short half-life destined it to become extinct long before man came into being, but Mendeleev predicted that there was a place for it.

All this makes sense. It's inconceivable that nature would be composed of haphazard and random elements. There's an order that merely needed to be noticed and Mendeleev did that. Except... there are the rare earth elements; the Lanthanide and the Actinide series, the latter being radioactive. The Lanthanides range from element 57, Lanthanum to element 70, Ytterbium. These elements are similar to one another in many respects and are widely used in chemistry as efficient catalysts, in computer technology, ceramics coloring, medicine, to list a few uses (grist for another column). Their wide range of uses and relative scarcity make them as valuable as



precious metals.

So, between Barium, element 56, and Lutetium, element 71, there is a loop of elements which don't fall into any shared characteristic column. But nature isn't supposed to be random and haphazard, so my thinking goes.

Decades ago, I was introduced to an easy shortcut for solving algebraic problems. Given three equations which contain three unknowns, it is possible to solve for them quickly and easily using an approach known as determinants. The thought occurred to me that in using a determinant approach and applying it to elemental characteristics (especially the Lanthanides), would it not be possible to predict the chemical properties of the outcome of ostensibly random combinations?

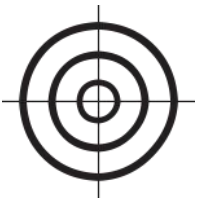


Mendeleev, Dmitri

So, as I said at the outset of this, whenever I'd come across someone with a background in mathematics, chemistry or physics, I would pester them about this notion. They almost all would respond that, no, it wouldn't be applicable — too many variables.

I felt sort of vindicated when I read a couple of months ago that some chemists had recently devised a template to do just that.

On Another Note



A target shooting day is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13 at the Carson City firing range.

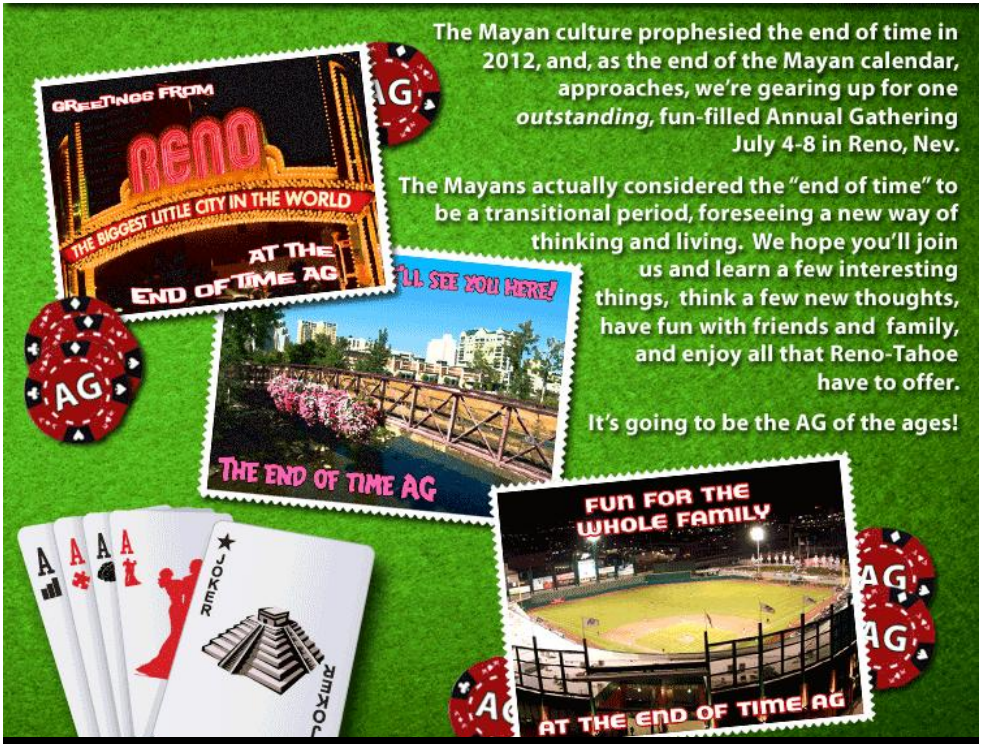
We will meet at 11:00 a.m. at the parking lot of the Arco service station, located at the southeast corner of the intersection of U.S. 50 and North Lompa in Carson City. The newly completed Hwy 395 extension through east Carson has northbound and southbound exits at Hwy 50. One block east of 50/395 is the traffic-lighted intersection of N. Lompa/U.S. 50.

Our good Dr. Gerry Lockhart will lead us in a caravan a little further east to the free firing range. There are roofed shooting bays as well as uncovered, banked bays. There'll be sandwiches, pizza and soft drinks. No alcohol. Public presence should be minimal midweek, although there's no sure way to predict. I'll contrive some Mickey Mouse targets. Ear protection advised. ■

Help Wanted! We need volunteer(s) for the 2011 Election Nominating Committee. Someone is needed to receive and record nominations for the four ExComm officer positions. You do not need to recruit nominations or perform any research. When the deadline arrives, October 31, the nominations received are forwarded to the ExComm. (This job requires almost no extra time, but would be of great value.) Contact: Bob McAllister

AG 2012, The End of Time!

And, it's right here in your own back yard. Register now.

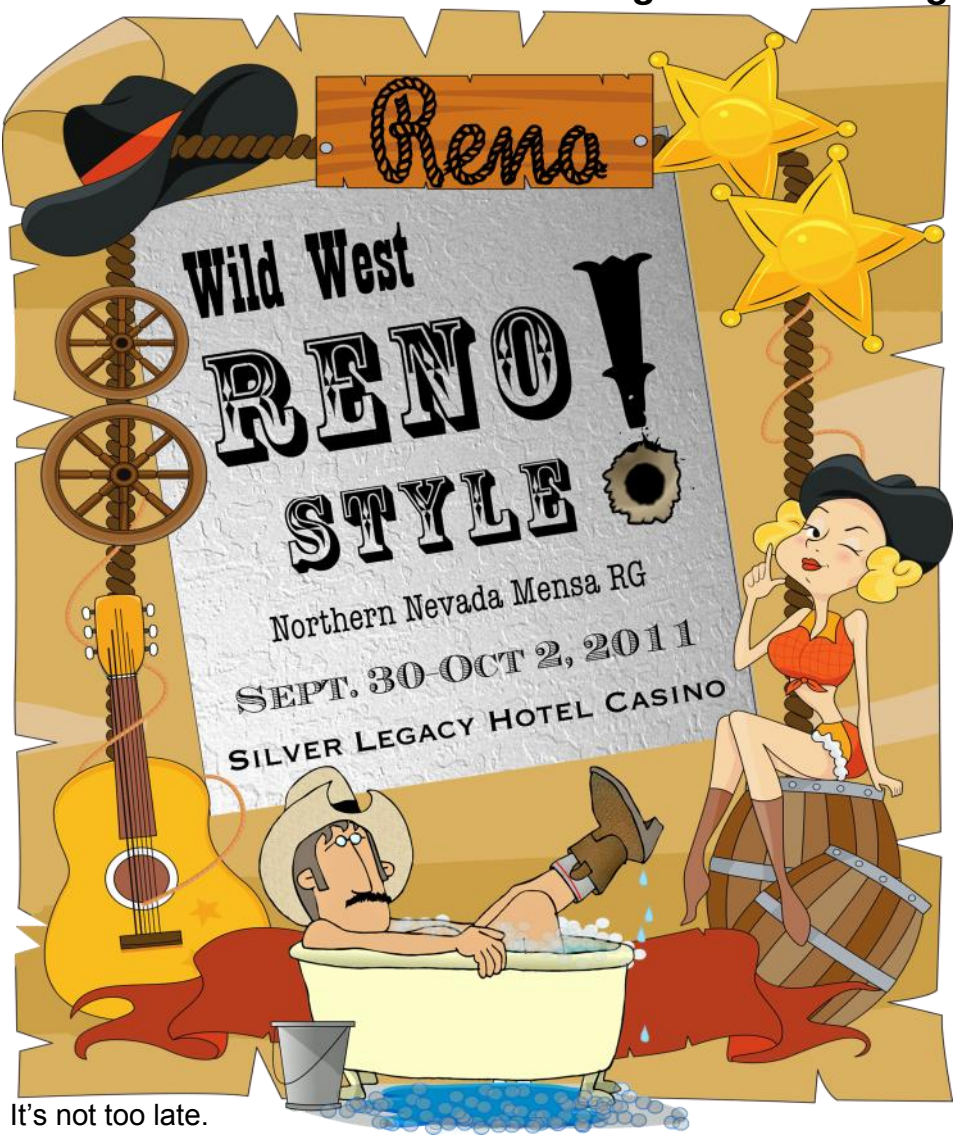


"A book is the only place in which you can examine a fragile thought without breaking it, or explore an explosive idea without fear it will go off in your face. It is one of the few havens remaining where a man's mind can get both provocation and privacy."

- Edward P. Morgan



Northern Nevada Mensa 2011 Regional Gathering



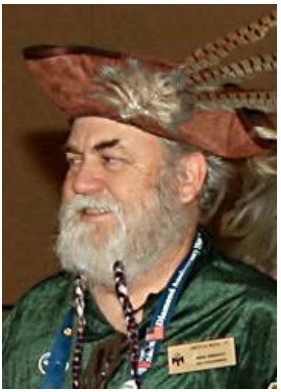
It's not too late.
Register now! **http://www.northernnevada.us.mensa.org**

Help Wanted! We need volunteers to help at our next Regional Gathering (above.) Some jobs that take only an hour or two are:

- Speaker shepherd (great job — you would be our local host to our guest, read the speaker's intro, and stay in the speaker's room to hear all of the presentation!)
- Hospitality aide (refill the snack dishes and keep the conversation going.)
- Registration aide (say "hello," and "welcome," to folks and then give them their registration materials.) Contact: the RG Chair Ken Wright

I'm Not Throwing Them Away…

by Ken Wright



I have always hated wasting things and throwing something out because a newer or replacement version has arrived. I guess I was into recycling and didn't know it. You would probably just say, "Just like a man... pack rats got nothing on you!" But I think you will all agree with me that this time, saving these items was a good thing to do.

It was 1984 and I was on board the USS America, CV-66, an aircraft carrier in the service of the U.S. Navy. We were in the Indian Ocean and flying like crazy. Spending every moment working helps the time pass, but it is also very hard on the body. You never really get to relax. You just collapse when you get a few minutes away from work, and before you know it someone is rousting you out and it's back to work until the next break.

There were times that we would work for as many as four days straight without ever stopping; no sleeping, food brought to you in the form of box lunches, bathroom breaks were at a premium and believe me, you were very appreciative of those opportunities when they came around. Those were memorable times, but let's not even think of referring to them as "the good old days." It wasn't fun or exhilarating; it just had to be done. Our job was to get the planes back aboard the ship in one piece, and we tried our best at all times to do just that. Sometimes it didn't happen. That's the way of military aviation.

When those unlikely times happened that we were able to sleep more than a couple of fitful hours, I would read a book to relax and get my mind off of our daily grind. It didn't really matter what it was, and I had read several books more than once.

The ship had a small library, maintained by the chaplain and his staff, where books were available to check out daily. You could keep them long enough to get them read, even with our wacky schedule. I confess that I started out being a reading snob, only wanting to read certain authors. Then I branched out to just certain kinds of books, mysteries, adventure, etc. and as my choices got fewer, my methods of selection grew broader until I had read everything in the library, and had to start going by how many times my name was already entered on the check-out sheet in each book. I was a voracious reader and was not about to apologize for it. If I had more free time they would probably have had to throw me out of the library so that others could have a chance at the books.

And then we got word that a new shipment of books was onboard a supply ship steaming towards us for a rendezvous. All Right! New Books! But the chaplain didn't seem terribly overjoyed to hear the news and I couldn't figure out why.

As you would expect, the ship's chaplain is privy to more inside information than this lowly enlisted swabby, and what he knew did not make him happy and didn't exactly "blow my skirt up" either, once he let slip what was going on.

Once the shipment of new books was on board, everything in the library with the exception of religious or reference books, was to be dumped over the side to make room for the new books, by order of the admiral himself. This was inconceivable to me. You just don't dump BOOKS, you treasure them and take care of them and read them again, or let others borrow them, but never, under any circumstance, would you throw away perfectly good books without so much as a pencil mark in them.

The chaplain was sick from the stress of having to obey this order and actually had to go to sickbay and have one of the docs give him something for his stomach and his nerves.

He had already become an ordained minister prior to coming into the Navy and had done a lot of missionary work in some of the poorest countries of the world, where they had NO books and no way to get them. If it weren't for the Bibles that the missionaries carried in on their backs, a lot of those kids would never even have seen a book; and now they wanted him to throw books into the ocean and no discussion about it. He tried protesting and got reminded by the admiral "who was in charge around here."

They just had to go and make me mad. I told the chaplain, "I don't care who's in charge. I'm NOT throwing them away! I will think of something, don't worry about it and we won't tell you any more than we have to, so you won't be guilty of any disobedience."

I got together with some of my coworker buddies, who were also avid readers, and we set about devising a plan to save the books. But, we had to move fast and could only include those who could keep their mouths shut. The admiral had snitches in every department, mostly to spy on and tattle on the officers, which I thought was a pretty childish way to do things for a guy with two stars.

First things first; we "checked out" as many of the classics as we could carry and hid them in our lockers and wherever we could find a safe, dry space to put them. Once we were filled up, we had to start working on a way to look like we were complying with the order and still not actually dump the books into the drink.

We got in touch with one of our friends in communications and asked if he could get a message to the supply ship. He said, "No problem, I talk with them all the time now. What's the message?" We gave him the shipping order and crate numbers, and asked him to get the message to a particular deck hand, who just happened to be a cousin of one of our guys, asking him to make sure that the identified crates were the very last to come over to the America. We needed the extra time, and asked that he reply with his nickname for our buddy if he could do

(Continued on page 18)

Write On!

Nellie Bly



S	R	C	L	R	O	M	A	N	C	E	R	Y	Y	A	P	E	T
S	I	O	S	E	Y	N	V	L	S	X	E	H	S	A	D	M	E
T	K	L	Y	C	T	E	S	I	E	L	A	M	M	O	C	E	E
E	I	O	N	A	R	T	S	M	V	I	A	P	S	T	Y	L	E
T	B	N	O	B	L	E	E	M	I	B	E	N	B	O	K	I	C
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O	S	A	N	T	O	N	Y	M	S	I	I	N	T	U	N	I	E
R	K	L	D	U	W	R	T	A	E	S	N	M	E	G	A	S	T
D	C	N	Q	J	O	I	N	S	S	R	Y	G	M	H	L	G	N
Y	E	T	E	L	E	D	K	A	S	N	E	Y	U	E	P	H	E
E	H	E	G	D	I	C	T	I	O	N	A	R	Y	L	H	Y	S
S	C	X	I	E	U	R	T	N	P	A	R	A	G	R	A	P	H
N	W	T	M	B	E	L	Y	I	O	E	E	R	P	D	B	R	M
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R	M	I	P	U	B	L	I	S	H	E	R	I	H	D	T	O	O
A	B	A	D	V	A	N	C	E	H	T	R	L	A	R	U	L	P
P	H	I	F	O	W	W	R	I	T	E	R	E	S	I	V	E	R
C	L	E	V	O	N	T	R	I	P	B	R	E	V	D	A	G	D

adjective
advance
adverb
alphabet
ampersand
antonym
apstyle
bigbucks
bliss
books
chapter
checks
colon
comma
delete
dictionary
editor
emdash
exlibris
fame
glory
hyphen
language
letters
library
noir
noun
novel
ode
paragraph
parens
period
plural
poem
possessive
publisher
quoteme
reader
revise
romance
royalty
screamer
sentence
simile
singular
stet
synonym
text
thesis
verb
verse
wikipedia
word
writer

Answers on page 25.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



2	**Melvin Silvester**	Reno
4	**Walter Ratchford**	Carson City
6	**Robert Klein**	Verdi
11	**Sam Kumar**	Reno
13	**John Kush**	Carson City
22	**William Neeld**	Sparks

Birthstone: Sapphire

Flower: Aster

Astrological Signs:

Virgo: August 23 - September 22

Libra: September 23 - October 22



NEWS

Welcome and Welcome Back!

Dr. Jean Bradt, Carson City, **Ted March**, Fernley
Constance Black, Carson City, **James North**, Reno
Natalie Sera, Reno

Willkommen, Bienvenidos, Chaire,
Irashaimasu, Dobro pozhalovat',
Bienvenue!

Puzzle Page

by Travis McCord

Since this is the literacy issue of the *Neva-Mind*, it seems appropriate to talk about the absolute best way to throw this issue on the side of the road after you're done with it. If you're traveling, the wind will certainly help, but it's still necessary to get the thing a good distance away from the vehicle. This can be accomplished with a sideways flinging action...

Whoops, wait, that's litter-acy. Literacy is books and stuff. My mistake.

Anyway, trivia quiz time. And once again, I'm getting a little (OK, a lot) of help from cracked.com for this one.

Q1: Starting with an easy one: Imagine this situation. A bomber pilot in WWII is going insane. If he's determined to be going insane, they'll send him home. Trouble is, they won't assess him unless he asks to be assessed… and if he does so, he's automatically considered sane, and obligated to fly more missions. This situation is the original...

Q2: The author of this book intended for it to encourage the U.S. to become socialist, because of the depictions of factory working conditions. (And no, it's not Obama. This book was published in 1906.) It arguably backfired, since the public's reaction to it resulted in the creation of a new government regulatory agency. Then again, you're probably healthier for it. What book?

Q3: Name that volume: a group of forcibly retired heroes is reunited when one of their number is murdered, and wind up stumbling into a conspiracy that could start or prevent a nuclear war. Hint: this one's kinda' graphic.

Q4: This book from the early 14th century was deliberately written in the local tongue so that people would read its prediction of the ultimate fate of everyone who wronged its author — including the Pope.
BONUS: in that book, who says his throne on Earth is vacant?

Q5: Cracked characterizes this book as having been written "by the biggest square in the universe for the nerdiest reason imaginable." Choose the book and the reason:

Books:

1. *Tom Sawyer*
2. *And to Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street*
3. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
4. *The Hobbit*

Reasons:

a. to win a bar bet
b. to introduce new words into the language
c. as a reaction to being let go
d. as a reaction to "new math"

Q6: Name that volume:

CHARGE: Manslaughter.

DETAILS: Defendant killed a man in a street fight.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES: The man killed had just killed another man in a similar fight. This first victim was related to the leader of the town.

RESULT: Although a prior directive said this type of crime would be punishable by death, given the extenuating circumstances the sentence is commuted to exile. Unfortunately, this act of mercy still resulted in three more deaths and two devastated families. Why? (And what work am I referencing?)

BONUS: How old is the female protagonist?

Q7: Which of the following is true about Machiavelli's *The Prince*?

- He wrote a sequel exploring the themes of the book further.
- He was writing a sequel at the time of his death.
- He once said the book encapsulated his entire philosophy.
- Some of his other writings seem to take the opposite viewpoint.
- The book was written in honor of the Pope.

Q8: Name that volume: a series of letters from a high-ranking demon talking about the demonic view of humanity, written by an author more known for a children's adventure series. Oddly enough, this one has two possible answers… one English, one American. Name them both.

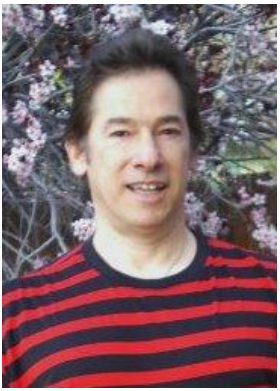
Q9: Fahrenheit 451. The temperature at which books burn. Why is that just plain wrong?

Q10: And, the musical portion of our program: name the songs which include these SAT-level vocabulary words in their lyrics. (And this time around, these all come from songs in the "classic rock" genre.)

a. "the calliope crashed to the ground"
b. "my love you don't need to coax"
c. "Fastidious and precise"
d. "but the point is probably moot"
e. "Jubilation, she loves me again"
f. "Caught between the Scylla and Charybdis"
g. "I'm sure you have some cosmic rationale"
h. "We have the same intrigue as a court of kings"
i. "and the grand facade, so soon will burn"
j. "Flagellation, regulation, integration"
k. "my blood so mad, feels like coagulatin'"
l. "mesmerized as they light the flame..." ■



Answers on page 26



Program Listing *by Richard Arbib*

September Monthly Meeting
Saturday, September 10
Time: Arrive at 6 p.m.

Slideshow by local Mensa member Julie Kriss. She will be providing a slide show of her 6-week trip through Romania and the Balkans (Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia). She will show a variety of pictures from each country, and will talk about her experiences with the Romanian education system, culture, cuisine, political and social encounters that she had in each location.



Potluck BBQ dinner: Bring a side dish to share.

Hosts: Ken and Anna Wright
Location: 510 Michael Drive, Fallon
Telephone: (775) 423-4694

Get your carpooling friends together!

Directions: From Reno, take I-80 East to Fernley. Take the second Fernley Exit and follow the signs to U.S. 50 (Alt.) East. (You'll get the chance to turn left in the famous Fernley roundabout! And after that, Hwy 50(Alt.) is now an easy four-lane drive into Fallon.) Once in Fallon, look for the intersection with Taylor St. and at that light, turn left. At the Keddie St. stop sign, turn left. At Michael Drive, turn left again. 510 will be... (You guessed it) on your left!

(No meeting in October due to Northern Nevada Regional Gathering)

Supper Club: Casale's Half Way Club, 2501 E. 4th Street, Reno, 323-3979
You've seen it maybe a million times… a little white building on 4th street with a big green rock out in front. Come try the food! Family owned and operated since 1937, the Half Way Club used to be "half way" between Reno and Sparks. Little has changed over the years: Mama Inez is still cooking and everything is home made. Italian comfort food, full bar. NO CREDIT CARDS, so bring cash or check. September 20, 6 p.m.
For more information contact Anne at: maytheroad@gmail.com



Mensa Admissions Testing Late Notice: Saturday, August 27. A Mensa Admissions Test will be given in Fallon at the Western Nevada College Campus, Piñon Hall, Room 206, 10 a.m. until noon.
Contact Anna Wright: pirsgrd@charter.net
Mensa Admissions Testing in September by appointment only.
See available Test Proctors on page 2.

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Game Night at Joe's Place: No Games Night in September (because of Labor Day weekend) or October (Reno Regional Gathering.) See you again in November! joe_kisenwether@hotmail.com.				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10 Mensa Meeting
11	12	13 Target Shooting (page 5)	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Supper Club	21	22	23 Fall Equinox	24
25	26	27 Lunch Bunch	28	29	30 Oct 1 WILD WEST, RENO STYLE!	

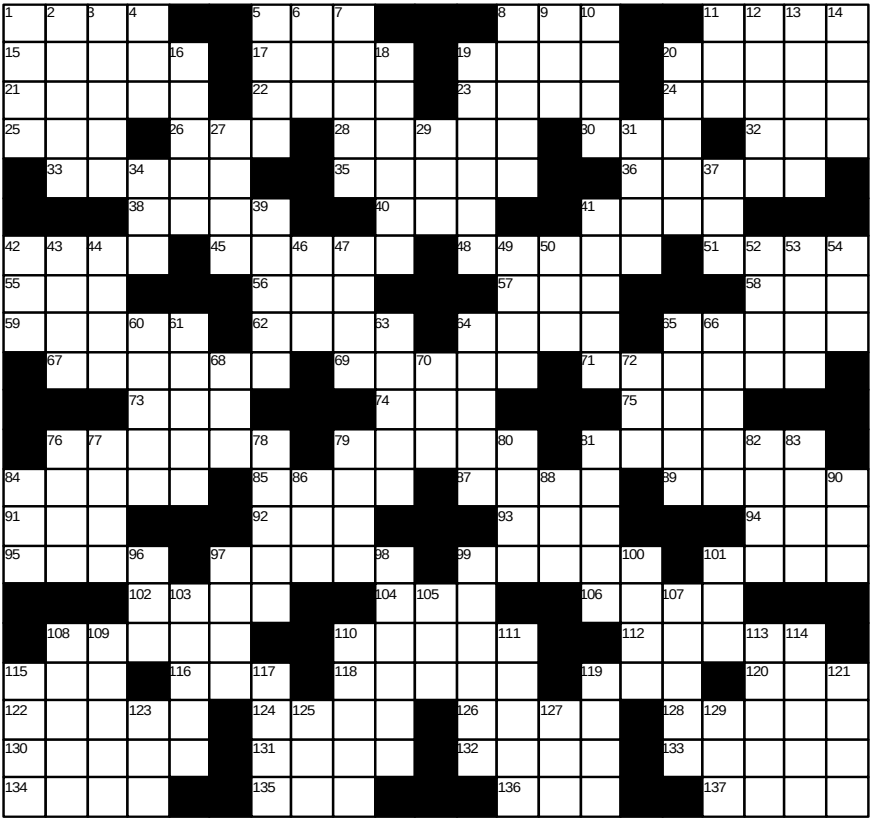
Lunch Bunch: On September 27, meet us at 11:45 a.m. at Barnes & Noble, 5555 So. Virginia. Yes, they serve light lunches: your choice of beverage, sandwich, pizza, soup and/or pastry. Call for info: Don or Laura 826-5904.

Target Shooting: September 13.
Meet at 11:00 a.m. at the intersection of U.S. 50 and North Lompa, Carson City, to join the car caravan to shooting range.



Bass Ackwards*

Crossword Puzzle by Anna Wright



© 2011 by Anna M. Wright

ACROSS

1 Bunsen burner
5 Rainy mo.
8 Expire
11 Volume
15 Benefits
17 Lash
19 Decorative needle case
20 Heathen *
21 Cain's eldest son
22 Smell
23 Phoenix BB team
24 Banish
25 Keyboard key
26 Sign language
28 Musical time
30 Hertz
32 Part of L.L.C. (abbr.)
33 Rub out *
35 Curse
36 Afloat (2 wds.)
38 Direct *
40 Punching tool
41 Communist Russian org.
42 Molecule part
45 Not as crazy
48 Bell tower *
51 Iran's neighbor
55 Swamp
56 Put on *
57 Workout muscles (abbr.)
58 Division of time *
59 Chocolate tree
62 Had knowledge
64 Expel *
65 Curved
67 Eagerly
69 Smelled
71 Capital of Kansas
73 Doze
74 Fabricate
75 Baby apparel
76 Horizontal
79 Nag *

Answers on page 26

81 Hercule Poirot's herbal tea

84 Pieces *

85 Wound covering

87 Utah state flower

89 Impetuous *

91 Pig

92 Nothing

93 Sushi order

94 Influential person

95 Pitcher

97 Enthusiasms

99 Parted

101 Acquaint *

102 Egyptian wading bird

104 Frequently

106 Prod

108 Nozzle

110 Aesop's forte *

112 Lobby

115 To be in debt

116 Big truck

118 Capital of Ecuador

119 Heat unit

120 X

122 Slink *

124 Adjoin

126 Hawkeye State

128 Legislate *

130 Pixies

131 Soft cheese

132 Powder *

133 Auras

134 Musical notation

135 Exhaust

136 Picnic pest

137 Fur

DOWN

1 Dueling weapon

2 Taut

3 Mock *

4 Canine registry (abbr.)

5 Truant

6 Doctoral degree

7 Public disorders

8 Path *

9 Catholic sister

10 Phonograph record

11 Most

12 Nimble

13 Map book *

14 Rushed

16 Pool

18 Before the battle

19 Expire *

20 Bird homes

27 Salty water masses

29 Kitten's cry

31 Vote in a law

34 High naval rank (abbr.)

37 __ Lanka

39 Gangly

41 Knock over

42 NFL part (abbr.)

43 Tropical wood

44 Fairy tale opener

46 Not (prefix)

47 First family's garden

49 Foray

50 Large computer co.

52 __ and ruin

53 Location

54 Proof ending

60 Sleep disorder *

61 Spinet *

63 Under *

64 Bed linen *

65 Imitative

66 Cutlass *

68 Nurse (abbr.)

70 Title of respect

72 Kimono sash

76 Store

77 Exhort

78 Perceive *

79 Room divider

80 Ooze

81 Aviator *

82 Church part

83 Great lake

84 Her

86 U.S.A. spy org.

88 Stiffen

90 Metronome marking

96 __ Grande

97 Type of pasta

98 Dissolved substance

99 Unmoving

100 Clump

101 Scriptural your

103 Wash *

105 J. E. Hoover's grp.

107 Confederate

108 Dilate

109 Annoyance

110 Supply

111 Distant *

113 Delight *

114 Hermit *

115 Nigeria is it's most populous mem.

117 Chats

119 Stuffing of matted cotton

121 Bird's home

123 Sport's official for short

125 Woman's undergarment

127 Ashen

129 Head cover

(Throwing continued from page 9)
it. We had the answer back in less than thirty minutes: "Squeeky," which was correct. We were in business.

Next step was to find a way to keep that pesky little busy-body of an admiral, out of the area, while we carried out the "disposal" in front of all the witnesses. Let me say this in defense of the rest of the crew, no one else but the admiral thought it necessary to toss the books into the ocean, but you had to be crazy to cross this guy and disobey an order from him. He did outrank everybody in the entire ocean, which pretty much left it up to me.

One of the guys wanted to give the admiral rat poison. I told him, "delightful idea, but it would cause a rather large stir, don't you know old boy." But he may have had something there. Memories of a past life in the army came flooding in. I went to the dispensary to check something with one of the corpsmen who wanted to become an air traffic controller and hung out with us in our work space every chance he got. He said yes definitely, he not only had what we needed, but he had a friend doing duty in the admiral's spaces who could and would help us out. There was never any love lost between the admiral and anyone who had to be at his beck and call 24 hours a day. The guy was a little tyrant. OK, that was fixed.

In order to make it appear to the staff on the bridge (the steering and command location for underway vessels), who looked right down on the spot where we were to dump the books, that we were complying with the admiral's order we need a couple of things: cooperation from some deck department guys to help in the execution of the plan, and an obstruction so that the actual "dumping" was hidden from view as much as possible.

The deck guys were no problem, I had friends there. The obstruction had to be such, that the bags could be seen going to the edge loaded, and coming back to the cart empty. We had a friend in the handler's office (the guy responsible for moving the aircraft around on the deck, other than flying), and he solved that problem for us. He just parked an F-14 in the way and adjusted the sweep of the wing until our man standing watch on the bridge said it was right.

We were ready.

The chaplain was notified that we were going to bag up the books and carry out the sentence, and he was told where he should stand to witness the Execution of Literacy. He was about to break down and cry, when we told him, "Remember what we said. Trust us, no matter what you think that you see."

I called my corpsman friend and told him to execute the plan. We had to be careful that we didn't say anything that would give us away if overheard. He had already supplied his friend in the admiral's quarters with some powdered laxative, that while it was very strong and fast acting, it wouldn't harm the old goat, but it would make him fall in love with the porcelain throne, and never want to leave it again... ever.

Once we had all the books bagged up, I called my deck department buddy and said, "Twelve," and he said, "OK," and we hung up, nothing there to give anything away. Twelve was the number of laundry bags full of books that were to go over the side, and they did go over the side.

We also had another accomplice on the bridge that I hadn't counted on. The ship's navigator, who we referred to as "Gator," was standing watch. He and I were good friends, which didn't hurt anything, as he was third in command of the aircraft carrier, behind the Captain and the XO, and he was a reader.

OK, so we hauled the bags up to the flight deck where we had a guy standing by with a cart to move them all. While we were stacking the bags, slowly and carefully, one of our deck department guys was securing "D" rings to each bag. Once the loading and securing of the bags was completed, we started our journey across the flight deck, marching in a solemn escort procession, with measured steps for emphasis and to further sell the idea that we were carrying out these awful orders.

As our funeral procession made its way slowly across the deck, I waited for a signal from one of our accomplices that the admiral was indeed, indisposed.

Prior to our arrival on the flight deck, a crew of deck guys had rigged a ring back under and out of sight of the flight deck and had run twelve ropes with snap hooks on them through the ring and hooked them on the edge of the flight deck, just where you couldn't see them from the bridge.

As our funeral procession made its way slowly across the deck, I waited for a signal from one of our accomplices that the admiral was indeed, indisposed. We did not want him getting into the middle of things now. There it was, a guy waving a pair of boxer shorts from a doorway in the side of the superstructure, and they had a brown streak running the length of the middle. My God! Did he steal the admiral's shorts? HA! That was too funny.

Now we could speed up and get this done before we had gathered too much of a crowd. We off-loaded the bags one at a time and made a show of how heavy and full they were, and that was no lie, they weighed over one hundred pounds each.

One at a time we carried them to the edge of the deck, sat them down, to get a grip on the bottom of course, and while we were down there we hooked a snap into the "D" ring on the bag and eased it over the side, where the deck hands below would swing it into a hatch and stack it in a corner. As we stood up we would be holding an empty bag that we had stashed in the top of the full bag, and shake it out like we were being sure that all the books were out of it. We did that twelve times.

(Continued on page 20)

(Throwing continued from page 19)

After the last bag was folded by two men, like a flag at a funeral, it was presented to the chaplain, who was almost in shock. We had promised that we would save the books, and it served the purpose for him to believe that we dumped the books and react like he did, while the enemy's men were watching.

On the bridge, the Gator had spies present from the Little Dictator, who was getting "lighter" by the moment, trying to snoop and get a better view. He had moved over enough, all the way against the window, to be able to catch the bags swinging under the deck and disappearing, but he wasn't telling; he was one of us! When the snoops tried to get in that same spot, he threw a pretend "temper tantrum" and ordered everyone except the underway watch off the bridge. The guy actually steering the ship said later that the Gator couldn't quit giggling after his performance. He was very pleased with himself. Hey, me too!

There was one final step for the chaplain to accomplish, and then we could set his fears to rest. He had to go and report directly to the admiral, that the deed was carried out, which was to be some further humiliation and power asserting by the Two-Star-Twerp.

There was one final step for the chaplain to accomplish, and then we could set his fears to rest.

When the chaplain came back to the library, I was working again, but some of the other guys were there and they reported that the chaplain said how awful he felt that the admiral was so indisposed, and how bad he was making it stink up there in big shot land. But then the chaplain didn't know what we did, or did he? The guys told the chaplain that what he saw is not what happened and that they shouldn't say any more, for his sake, but the books were dry, really!

The last detail that I worried over, and I think that I was lead along by this wily old preacher, is to have all of us who took part in this episode confess to the chaplain! That way he could never tell anything because of the sanctity of confessional. Before y'all go off into that "you're not even Catholic" place... there are two things that you should keep in mind. Chaplains aboard naval vessels are considered interdenominational, kind of an all-purpose-God-guy, and have volunteers from the individual faiths to help with conducting their particular worship services. Religion wasn't the admiral's strong suit anyway, so there really wasn't anything that the admiral could do about it. But, we never mentioned anything about the alleged cause of the admiral's sudden malaise, even to the chaplain, it must have been an Act of God... or something.



The books were safe and never came to harm. If y'all are interested, I will tell you what we did with them another time, but I promise you, I didn't throw them away! ■

Travel Opportunity:

The Rotary Club of Reno, New Generations is seeking four outstanding professionals to visit Saõ Paulo State, Brazil from April 28 through May 28, 2012 as part of the Group Study Exchange program of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

For four to five weeks, team members experience the way of life, customs, and vocational practices of another country, while sharing information about their homeland. If selected, team members will be expected to attend at least three all-day training and orientation sessions in the Reno-Tahoe area in the four months prior to their departure for Brazil. The training sessions are normally conducted on Saturdays. The Rotary Foundation pays for round-trip airfare, and Rotary club members in the host country provide meals, lodging, and group travel in their district. Team members pay for personal and incidental expenses.

Young adults between the ages of 25 and 40 who are interested in applying should be employed full-time in a business or profession. Applicants must live or be employed in Rotary District 5190 (which includes north-eastern California and northern Nevada). The GSE team member application may be downloaded at: www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/161en.pdf. Applications are due to me by email by September 20, 2011.

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www.armstrongteasdale.com

Or, contact Mensa member Mindy Hsu for more details.

Did you know that Mensa has a book donation program for needy libraries? It's called **Project Inkslinger.** Check it out: http://www.us.mensa.org/volunteer/projectinkslinger/

Cryptogram:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

A S H E H F V M I R G M A S G S M C S

S M O A U F V M O G F M A A H I M O

Q H F H T V Y T X M P W F H Z X P M C H .

Q K F R A G K M I

Answers on page 25

Mensa for Kids! *(and kids at heart)*

by Maurice Pollack and Anna Wright

Simple Harmonic Motion



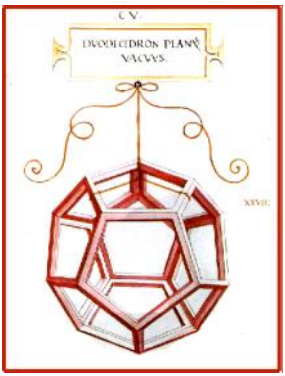
What is it? What does it look like? Harvard University has prepared a YouTube demonstration. The actual URL is a bit too long to fit in this article but you can click here: Harvard Simple Harmonic Motion

Thanks to Mensan, Anne Stewart for this cool website find.



Research problem:

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) was the quintessential renaissance man: artist, mathematician, scientist, and engineer. He was a great lover of geometry, and devoted much time to it starting in his early forties. Geronimo Jones found this picture of one of da Vinci's drawings in a museum. What is it? Are there more shapes like it?



Answer on page 25

Museum Day — free admission!

September 24, will be *Smithsonian Magazine* Museum Day. Museums across the United States will offer free admission to people who download a pass from *Smithsonian Magazine*'s Web site. For information, read the September edition of *Smithsonian* or go to www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday

Here is a list of some of the museums in our area who are participating in Museum Day.

- National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection), Reno
- Nevada State Museum, Carson City
- Historic Fourth Ward School, Virginia City
- McGill Historical Drug Store, McGill
- Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark, Ely
- White Pine Public Museum, Inc., Ely
- Gatekeeper's Museum, Tahoe City, CA
- College of Southern Nevada Planetarium, North Las Vegas, NV



GRAFFITI WALL

Anna Wright



Answers on page 27



From the RVC

by Debra Reiger

Hi everyone. Here's a good website to check out for attractive and entertaining items with the Mensa logo and/or designed for smart people. www.MensaStore.com has lots of nice stuff including one of my favorites, a line of math earrings (they are a little hard to describe, but wonderfully quirky) as well as shirts, pens, mugs, and more. If you were at the AG in Portland, you would probably have seen the booth in the Hospitality area.

Speaking of the AG, I attended and enjoyed it very much. The weather in Portland was delightful and it was a great summer destination for me (I live in hot Sacramento). It was great to meet many of you and to see some other people that I know but don't see as often as I'd like to. If you haven't been to an AG recently, I urge you to try one of the upcoming ones: Reno in 2012, Ft. Worth in 2013, Boston in 2014, Louisville in 2015. Wow. What a great bunch of travel destinations.

This year Region 8 really looked great in the newsletter/website annual awards department! Especially Anna Wright, editor of Northern Nevada Mensa's newsletter, *Neva-Mind*, who got the national newsletter OWL (a very big deal), as well as the award for outstanding small group newsletter. She also received awards for overall entertainment in a newsletter, and as a contributor, for puzzles and games. And, with Maurice Pollack, an award for a newsletter continuing item, "Mensa for Kids (and Kids at Heart)." I think Anna got one more, for a total of 6 awards. Congratulations, Anna, Maurice, and Northern Nevada Mensa!

Mensa's highest award, the Margot, was awarded to Dr. Francis A. Cartier, Jr. of Monterey County Mensa. This is a rare and prestigious award and is not given out every year. Region 8 member, Velma Jeremiah, also received a Margot. Congratulations to Francis and to Velma!

(Continued on page 25)

Receiving their Margot awards at the right are Velma Jeremiah and Dr. Francis Cartier.



> The Margot, named for American Mensa's first Executive Director, is bestowed "for the rendering of exceptional service to Mensa for a number of years."

The Margot has only been awarded 13 times in the past 50 years. Learn more about the award at: http://www.us.mensa.org/recognize/nationalawards/margot/

San Francisco Regional Mensa took home at least 4 awards, including the outstanding newsletter for a large group, newsletter calendar, a Culture Quest award (11th place out of 21 awards), and Region 8's winner for "Name the Event." Congratulations, San Francisco.

Oregon Mensa also achieved, with awards to members Laurie Yadon for a non-fiction newsletter article, and Sandra Wood for member recognition in the Omen. Kathe Oliver received a certificate of appreciation. You all make us look good. Congratulations.

Redwood Empire Mensa newsletter contributor Dixon Wragg got an award for a non-fiction article, "Let's Be Reasonable." Wonderful!

Please forgive me for any awards that I missed. You all make me proud to be a member of Region 8.

Have a great month.
Regards,
Debra Reiger, RVC 8

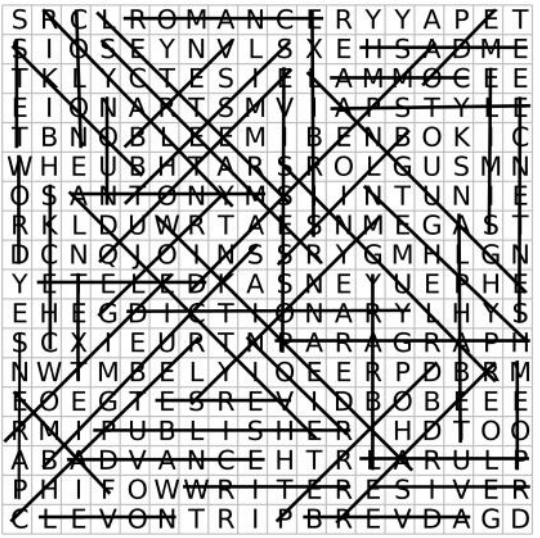
Mensa for Kids!

Leonardo da Vinci

This drawing is called a dodecahedron. It is made from 12 regular pentagons and there are many more. You can research these cool *polyhedra* by searching for Platonic solids (named after Plato) and Euclidean solids (named for Euclid.)

Surprise! Did you also find the shape that makes a modern soccer ball?

Write On! answers:



Cryptogram answers:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
K	L	C	P	H	Y	N	S	M	Z	R	T	Q	I	U	W	D	F	O	A	X	E	G	J	V	B

THE VERY INK WITH WHICH
ASH EHFV MIR GMAS GSMCS

HISTORY IS WRITTEN IS
SMOAUFV MO GFMAAHI MO

MERELY FLUID PREJUDICE.
QHFHTV YTXMP WFHZXPMCH

MARK TWAIN
QKFR AGKMI



Puzzle Page answers:

Q1: *Catch-22*. (From the novel by Joseph Heller)

Q2: *The Jungle*, by Upton Sinclair. (who was actually a journalist)

Q3: *Watchmen*, the graphic novel.

Q4: *The Divine Comedy*, Dante Alighieri.
Bonus: Saint Peter, referring to the Papacy (which he describes as a "blood-filled sewer")

Q5: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was written as a diatribe against "new math," particularly imaginary numbers.

Q6: It's the reason for Romeo's banishment in Romeo and Juliet.
Bonus: the nurse's dialogue says Juliet is 13.

Q7: Some of his other writings take the opposite viewpoint... actually all of them. His other works were all pro-republic and pro-freedom, leading some to believe he was "taking the piss" when he wrote *The Prince*.

Q8: C. S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters* and Mark Twain's *Letters From Earth*.

Q9: Someone goofed on the scientific research: books burn at Celsius 451 (about Fahrenheit 842.)

Q10:

a. "Blinded By The Light," Bruce Springsteen (covered by Manfred Mann)
b. "Maggie May," Rod Stewart
c. "Killer Queen," Queen
d. "Jesse's Girl," Rick Springfield
e. "Cecilia," Simon & Garfunkel
f. "Wrapped Around Your Finger," The Police
g. "Pressure," Billy Joel
h. "Leave It," Yes
i. "In Your Eyes," Peter Gabriel
j. "Give Peace a Chance," The Beatles
k. "Eve of Destruction," Barry MacGuire
l. "On The Turning Away," Pink Floyd

Bass Ackwards

answers:



E	T	N	A	■	■	A	P	R	■	■	E	N	D	■	■	M	A	S	S
P	E	R	K	S	■	W	H	I	P	■	E	T	U	I	■	N	A	G	A	P
E	N	O	C	H	■	O	D	O	R	■	S	U	N	S	■	E	X	I	L	E
E	S	C	■	A	S	L	■	T	E	M	P	O	■	C	P	S	■	L	T	D
■	E	S	A	R	E	■	■	S	W	E	A	R	■	■	A	T	S	E	A	■
■	■	■	D	E	A	L	■	■	A	W	L	■	■	U	S	S	R	■	■	■
A	T	O	M	■	S	A	N	E	R	■	E	R	I	P	S	■	I	R	A	Q
F	E	N	■	■	■	N	O	D	■	■	■	A	B	S	■	■	■	A	R	E
C	A	C	A	O	■	K	N	E	W	■	T	I	M	E	■	A	R	C	E	D
■	K	E	E	N	L	Y	■	N	O	S	E	D	■	T	O	P	E	K	A	■
■	■	■	N	A	P	■	■	■	L	I	E	■	■	■	B	I	B	■	■	■
■	S	U	P	I	N	E	■	W	E	R	H	S	■	T	I	S	A	N	E	■
S	T	R	A	P	■	S	C	A	B	■	S	E	G	O	■	H	S	A	R	B
H	O	G	■	■	■	N	I	L	■	■	■	E	E	L	■	■	■	V	I	P
E	W	E	R	■	Z	E	A	L	S	■	S	P	L	I	T	■	T	E	E	M
■	■	■	I	B	I	S	■	■	O	F	T	■	■	P	U	S	H	■	■	■
■	S	P	O	U	T	■	■	E	L	B	A	F	■	■	F	O	Y	E	R	■
O	W	E	■	R	I	G	■	Q	U	I	T	O	■	B	T	U	■	T	E	N
P	E	E	R	C	■	A	B	U	T	■	I	O	W	A	■	T	C	A	N	E
E	L	V	E	S	■	B	R	I	E	■	C	L	A	T	■	H	A	L	O	S
C	L	E	F	■	■	S	A	P	■	■	A	N	T	■	■	P	E	L	T	■

Mensa-Speak *What are we saying?*	
AG	Annual Gathering (Conference)
AMC	American Mensa Committee (National Elected or Appointed Officers)
AML	American Mensa Ltd. (National Office Employees)
ExComm	Executive Committee (Local Elected Officers)
LDW	Leadership Development Workshop
LocSec	Local Secretary (Local President)
M/Ms	Mensans
MERF	Mensa Education & Research Foundation
MIL	Mensa International Ltd.
NNM	Northern Nevada Mensa
PRP	Publication Recognition Program
RG	Regional Gathering (Conference)
RVC	Regional Vice-Chair
SIG	Special Interest Group
SIGHT	Service of Information, Guidance and Hospitality to Travelers
WG	World Gathering (Conference)

Graffiti Wall

- Writer's block
- Book club
- Anonymous (Anonymoose)
- Bookworm
- Bookkeeper
- Reading the writing on the wall
- Bookends with bookie, booking, bookish
- Table of contents
- Leaflets
- Footnote
- Ghost writer



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Perseid Meteor Shower Picnic and Camp out After Action Report with photos.

Record attendance this year with 29 guests, 10 first time guests including two Mensa members that I had the great pleasure of meeting for the first time.

The meteor viewing was poor because of the bright full moon. Swimming was lovely except for Sunday morning when an algae bloom turned the water along the beach into pea soup. Ed Hanley played us guitar and led a fine song circle around the fire pit.

It's hard to imagine a nicer group to hang out with around a campfire by a lake. Or anywhere. Thanks to all who attended for making it such a wonderful weekend.

Attached are some photos by Mick Hampson, Joy Bridgeman and myself.

Lost- A multi colored beach blanket with good memories for Lisa Stiller and she would love to get it back. Please check through your gear and let me know if you have a beach towel you don't recognize.
Found- A nice blue RayoVac LED flashlight. E-mail me if it's yours and I will get it back to you.

Two of the guests you met are professional musicians. Mick (tall, British accent) and Melissa (short, slender, we had a birthday cake for her) It might be fun to get together a bunch of the campers to see them perform some night when they are in town.

Googling the Melissa Dru Band will get some hits on them including u-tube videos.
Their web site is at
http://www.melissadru.com/
You can hear some samples of their CD at
http://www.amazon.com/Verity-Melissa-Dru/dp/B00000JLHL/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1296555921&sr=1-1

Warm Regards,

Bill Kositzky
775-329-6791



Campers
by Bill Kositzky





Guitarist and song leader, Ed Hanley



"Moon" (above) by Mick Hampson

"Pyramid Morning Light" by Joy Bridgeman

